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SECURITY INFORMATION

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GENERAL

1. American delegate urges revision of COCOM secrecy restrictions: The American delegate to the Consultative Group of COCOM states that the whole problem of secrecy is approaching a critical stage as a result of the forthcoming semi-annual Battle Act report, Representative Battle's current tour of European countries, present and prospective exceptions to East-West trade controls, the question of admitting Japan to COCOM, and recent press disclosures about the existence and functions of COCOM.

He recommends that the United States seek a more flexible policy on secrecy at the September meeting of the Consultative Group. He points out the present policy is creating difficulties between executive and legislative branches of member governments and in their relations with business interests and the public.

France and Britain generally oppose disclosures, but Italy, West Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands are expected to favor publicizing COCOM controls. (S S/S Paris 1185, 25 Aug 52)

WESTERN EUROPE

2. French comment on four-power talks: The head of the Political Affairs Section of the French Foreign Ministry favors agreeing to another four-power meeting on Germany, despite its obvious futility. His personal opinion is that the latest Soviet note is a "signing-off on what the Russians had started in March." The USSR has abandoned hope of influencing the West against integrating West Germany into Atlantic defense planning and is now concentrating on German opinion. (S S/S Paris 1197, 25 Aug 52)

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Comment: The French Government will probably insist on continuing the exchange of notes, and may even press for immediate talks if public sentiment develops in that direction

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